

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 SY-05 SCCT-01 /095 W

----- 088862

P R 170930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1861

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, UN

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: ARMED CLASHES AND POPULAR

DEMONSTRATION ATTEND UN TEAM'S VISIT

REF: MADRID 3172

1. SUMMARY: TEN SPANISH SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY SAHARAN INSURGENTS IN INCIDENTS MAY 10-11 AND MOROCCAN FORCES FIRED TWO SAM MISSILES WITHOUT SUCCESS AT TWO SPANISH HELICOPTERS. FIRST DAYS OF VISIT BY THREE-MAN UN INVESTIGATING TEAM HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY DEMONSTRATIONS BY PREVIOUSLY ILLEGAL LIBERATION GROUP DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE AND GUARANTEE AGAINST MOROCCAN ANNEXATION. JOURNALISTS' REPORTS FROM SAHARA GIVE IMPRESSION THAT GOS HAS RELAXED CONTROLS ON INDEPENDENCE GROUPS IN RESPONSE TO PRESENCE OF UN TEAM AND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTAIN ALL ASPECTS OF FAST MOVING SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF CONFLICTING PRESS REPORTS AND  
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CATEGORIC DENIAL BY SEC GEN OF SAHARAN GOVT, GOVERNOR GENERAL

CONFIRMED MAY 15 THAT TEN SPANISH SOLDIERS (TWO OFFICERS) HAD BEEN CAPTURED MAY 10-11 BY INSURGENT GROUPS THROUGH AID OF TURNCOAT SAHARAN TROOPS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT MOROCCAN FORCES NEAR NORTHERN BORDER HAD USED TWO SAM MISSILES IN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO SHOOT DOWN TWO HELICOPTERS.

3. AFTER CONCLUSION OF FOUR-DAY VISIT TO MADRID, MAY 8-12, AND MEETINGS WITH FONMIN CORTINA, MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY CARRO MARTINEZ, AND DIRGEN OF SAHARA, BLANCO, THREE-MAN UN INVESTIGATING TEAM FLEW MAY 12 TO EL AIUUN FOR PLANNED EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO SAHARA. TEAM HAS SEEN GOVERNOR GENERAL, PRESIDENT OF POPULAR ASSEMBLY, LOCAL CHIEFTAINS, AND VISITED BU CRAA PHOSPHATE MINE, AND TIFARITI ON MAURITANIAN BORDER. BOTH IN EL AIUUN AND BU CRAA TEAM REPORTEDLY WAS CONFRONTED BY LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS LED BY PREVIOUSLY ILLEGAL ANTI-MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE GROUP, "F POLISARIO", REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTURE OF SPANISH SOLDIERS AND KIDNAPPING OF CANARY ISLAND BUSINESSMAN TWO MONTHS AGO. ON-THE-SCENE REPORTS AND PHOTOS PORTRAYED "F POLISARIO" SUPPORTERS, DEMONSTRATING AGAINST MOROCCAN ANNEXATION AND FOR INDEPENDENCE, REPORTEDLY ECLIPSING FOLLOWERS OF SPANISH-SPONSORED INDEPENDENCE PARTY, PUNS, IN BOTH NUMBERS AND MILITANCE.

4. SPANISH AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY SUMMONED TO MEET WITH KING HASSAN MAY 14, AND THEN RETURNED TO MADRID IMMEDIATELY FOR CONSULTATIONS. MOROCCAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR TOLD EMBOFF THAT KING HAD MADE ANOTHER APPEAL IN DEMARCHE FOR DIRECT SPANISH-MOROCCAN TALKS.

5. COMMENT: SINCE OPENING MAY 12 OF ICJ PUBLIC HEARINGS OF REFERRAL OF SAHARAN ISSUE AND ARRIVAL OF UN TEAM IN MADRID LOCAL MEDIA HAVE REPORTED IN DETAIL ABOUT SAHARAN DEVELOPMENTS. GOS NOW SEEMS TO PREFER OPEN INFO POLICY ON SAHARAN ISSUE, HAVING FACILITATED VISITS TO AREA BY SPANISH REPORTERS AND GRANTED LONG-STANDING REQUEST BY PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR TO VISIT SAHARA. PRESS IS REPORTING WITH UNUSUAL CANDOR ABOUT SPANISH PUBLIC ORDER AND POLITICAL DILEMMAS IN AREA. FORECAST OF DIRGEN OF SAHARA MAY 7 ABOUT INCREASE OF INCIDENTS TO COINCIDE WITH UN TEAM VISIT HAS BEEN BORNE OUT BY EVENTS (REFTEL).

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STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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